

Application No. 10/502,056

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks. Claims 16-32 are pending, Claims 27-32 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the helpful discussions on April 10 and 12, 2006, and the indication that the claims may be allowable over the prior art of record if amended to require the presence of components b) and c).

Claim 16 has been amended to require the presence of components b) and c). This is supported by the specification which clearly includes embodiments in which b) and c) are present.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the **Information Disclosure Statement**, filed in the above-identified application on March 13, 2006, have been considered. For the Examiner's convenience a copy of Form PTO 1449 as filed on March 13, 2006, is attached herewith.

Finally, Applicants note that MPEP §821.04 states, "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined." Applicants respectfully submit that should the elected group be found allowable, the non-elected claims 27-32 should be rejoined.

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This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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